

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON
25TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND LABOR

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

MEMBER OF REPUBLICAN WHIP TEAM



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0525

2184 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-1956

26650 THE OLD ROAD, SUITE 203
SANTA CLARITA, CA 91381
(661) 254-2111

1008 WEST AVENUE M-14, SUITE E-1
PALMDALE, CA 93551
(661) 274-9688

SAN BERNARDINO, INYO,
AND MONO COUNTIES
(800) 565-4333

www.mckeeon.house.gov

August 21, 2009

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

1430

Re: Amendment of Parts 2 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Provide Additional Spectrum for the Medical Device Radiocommunication Service in the 413-457 MHz Band (ET Dkt. No. 09-36; RM-11404)

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing in support of the Federal Communication Commission's proposal to allocate spectrum in the 413-457 MHz band and adopt service and technical rules for use by medical micro-power network ("MMN") devices.

I understand that the Alfred Mann Foundation -- a nonprofit medical research foundation -- has made significant progress in developing innovative MMN equipment designed to restore function to paralyzed limbs and organs. This equipment can provide an important tool in the medical treatment and care of millions of disabled Americans, including U.S. service men and women who suffered spinal cord, traumatic brain, and other severe injuries during their military service in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere.

MMN technology is exciting and represents a true medical breakthrough that can offer incalculable benefits not available through any other medical treatment option. As the Commission correctly noted in its notice of proposed rulemaking, MMN devices can provide a safer, less invasive, and more effective treatment option than other therapeutic approaches. The Alfred Mann Foundation reports that early tests show the MMN technology does not interfere with primary spectrum use and can safely and effectively operate as a secondary use.

Without adequate spectrum and service rules to permit MMN use millions of Americans could be deprived of effective medical treatment for their serious neuromuscular injuries and conditions. Commission action to permit MMN operation will serve the public interest and is fully consistent with the Commission's established practice and policy of nurturing nascent technologies, particularly those offering significant medical benefits.

I urge the Commission to take into consideration the significant medical benefits of MMN technology and to allocate sufficient spectrum and establish appropriate rules to accommodate MMN operation in the 413-457 MHz band.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard P. 'Buck' McKeon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'H'.

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress